



ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 1.01

TITLE: Oath of Office and Code of Ethics

SERIES NUMBER: 1

SERIES TITLE / SUBJECT: Law Enforcement Role, Responsibilities and Relationship

TOPICS/ REFERENCE: Code, Ethics, Oath

APPENDICIES: A, B

ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE / ISSUE DATE: May 17, 2004

DATE OF LAST REVISION: May 01, 2013

THIS ORDER REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL REVISED OR RESCINDED

CALEA STANDARDS: 1.1.1 - 1.1.2 - 33.5.1

Policy:

It is the policy of the Rockford Police Department that all employees for the Department will comply with a code of ethics. Furthermore, all sworn members prior to assuming sworn status will take an oath of office.

Purpose:

The purpose of this General Order is to establish an oath of office for all sworn personnel and a code of ethics for all personnel of the Rockford Police Department. This order also notifies sworn members that they will be responsible for upholding the oath of office. It further notifies all Department personnel they are to maintain these ethics on an individual basis.

This Order is comprised of the following numbered sections:

- I. OATH OF OFFICE
- II. CODE OF ETHICS
- III. TRAINING
- IV. EFFECTIVE DATE
- V. REVIEWS, REVISIONS AND CANCELATIONS

Appendices:

- A. Oath of Office
- B. Code of Ethics

I. Oath of Office:

- A. Each new member of the Rockford Police Department, prior to assuming sworn status, will take the Oath of Office and sign two paper copies of the oath (See *Oath of Office* in Appendix A).

- B. Any sworn member of the Rockford Police Department, prior to assuming promotion to supervisory or command rank (sergeant, lieutenant, assistant deputy chief, deputy chief, chief of police), will take the Oath of Office for that rank and sign two paper copies of the oath (See *Oath of Office* in Appendix A).
 - C. The Chief of Police or his/her designated representative will administer the oath.
 - D. One signed, paper copy of the oath will be placed in the officer's personnel file. The second signed paper copy of the oath will be forwarded to the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners.
- II. Code of Ethics:
- A. The Rockford Police Department now adopts a Code of Ethics for sworn and non-sworn employees (See *Code of Ethics* in Appendix B).
 - B. All personnel of the Department will understand and practice the Code of Ethics and will be responsible for maintaining these ethics on an individual basis.
- III. Training:
- A. Training on the Code of Ethics will be conducted for all personnel, at least biennially.
- IV. Effective Date:
- A. This policy became effective May 17, 2004.
- V. Reviews, Revisions and Cancellations:
- A. This General Order will be reviewed each annually the Accreditation Section and, when necessary, revised or cancelled in accordance with the procedures for reviewing written directives established in General Order 10.01 – *Written Directives*.
 - B. Any employee with suggestions for revisions and/or improvements to this order are encouraged to submit their ideas to the Commander of the Administrative Services Bureau.

BY ORDER OF
Chet Epperson
Chief of Police

APPENDIX A

**OATH OF OFFICE
OFFICER OF POLICE
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS**

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO)

I, (Name), do solemnly swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, the Ordinances of the City of Rockford, the Rules and Regulations, Practices and Procedures of the Rockford Police Department and of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of a (Police Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Assistant Deputy Chief, Deputy Chief, Chief of Police) of the Rockford Police Department.

(Signed)

Notary Public

SEAL

APPENDIX B

CODE OF ETHICS ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

Sworn Employee Code of Ethics:

“As a member of the Rockford Police Department, my first duty is to serve the people of the City of Rockford, Illinois. I will safeguard lives and property; protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder.

Above all else, I shall respect the constitutional rights of all people to liberty, equality and justice. I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all, maintaining courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule, develop self-restraint and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others.

I will be honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life; I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulation of the Department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature of that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never involve or permit my personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the position of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the Department, I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself to my chosen profession.”

Non-sworn Employee Code of Ethics:

“I acknowledge respect for human life, recognizing diversity among the members of the community and department I serve. I will exhibit honesty and integrity through ethical behavior. I will be obedient to the ordinances of the City of Rockford, the laws of the State of Illinois and the United States of America.

I will not, in the performance of my duty, work for personal advantage or profit. I will at all times, recognize that I am a public servant, and the ultimately I am responsible to the public. I will give the most efficient, impartial and courteous service of which I am capable at all times. I will accept responsibility for my actions. I will assist my colleagues fully and to the best of my ability with respect and consideration at all times. I will recognize the positive relationship between good physical and mental conditioning and the performance of my duties. I will do only those things that will reflect honor on myself, my fellow employees, my supervisors and my agency.”